

## **AMENDMENTS TO THE SUBSTITUTE SPECIFICATION**

**Please replace the paragraphs at Page 5, line 9 to Page 6, line 9 with the following replacement paragraphs:**

As described, the seat 21 and prongs 25 preferably form a single unit within an array or lattice of gemstones 15. As such, additional seats 21, prongs 25 and/or gemstones 15 are added to form a row and/or array of gemstones 15. To facilitate such an arrangement, a shared prong 35 is used between adjacent gemstones 15 to form a “building block” for an array of gemstones 15. The basic element or building block as described is best shown Fig. 3. As shown in Figs. 3-6, each seat 21 preferably corresponds with two prongs 25 and a shared prong 35. Figs. 7-10 correspond to lattice structures 10 as shown in Figs. 3-6, respectively, but Figs. 7-10 show mounted gemstones 15. With two or more gemstones 15 in the array, such as shown in Figs. 7-10, the outermost gemstones 15 of each array has an unattached outer edge [[16]] 18 which aesthetically appears as a floating edge.

Accordingly, an additional gemstone 15 is positioned on an additional seat 21 and two additional prongs 25 are positioned one on each side of the additional gemstone 15, each prong 25 of the two additional prongs 25 having a bezel 26 formed

therein so that the additional gemstone 15 is retained within the bezel 26. In addition, the shared prong 35 is positioned between the gemstone 15 and the additional gemstone 15. The shared prong 35 preferably includes a bezel 26 formed on each side of the shared prong 35 to partially engage with a respective inner edge 17 of the gemstone 15 and inner edge 17 of the additional gemstone 15. The article of jewelry 10 thus may include gemstones 15 around a periphery of the article of jewelry 10 have an exposed and unbound outer edge [[16]] 18. Each exposed and unbound outer edge [[16]] 18 is thus opposite the shared prong 35 and the respective inner edge 17.

**Please replace the paragraph at Page 6, line 14 to Page 7, line 2 with the following replacement paragraph:**

Such an array of gemstones 15 preferably includes a shared prong 35 positioned between each additional gemstone 15 that is shared between adjacent gemstones 15. Preferably, the article of jewelry is thereby created wherein each gemstone 15 includes an inner edge 17 that is positioned against a common shared prong 35 and along an outer edge or periphery of the article of jewelry 10, each gemstone 15 includes an exposed and/or unbound outer edge [[16]] 18, i.e., an outer edge [[16]] 18 not bound or restrained with a prong 25 or shared prong 35. The

shared prong 35 preferably includes a pair of bezels 26 formed along each of two opposite sides of the shared prong 35 so that the pair of bezels 26 accommodate inner edges 17 of adjacent gemstones 15.

**Please replace the paragraphs at Page 7, line 8 to Page 8, line 3 with the following replacement paragraphs:**

Figs. 3-6 each shows a different configuration of lattice structure 40, according to this invention. Fig. 3 shows module 20 having two prongs 25 and the shared prong 35. Fig. 4 shows a configuration wherein two modules 20 share the common shared prong 25. The outer edges of each seat 21, as shown in Fig. 5, preferably have no corresponding or attached prong 25. Thus, as shown in Fig. 10 for example, the corresponding edge portion [[16]] 18 of gemstone 15 is free, having no corresponding prong 25, and thus aesthetically appears to float with no attached mounting. Figs. 8-10 show a 2 x 2 array, a 3 x 3 array and a 4 x 4 array, respectively.

According to a preferred embodiment of this invention, seat 21 is mounted between and connects prongs 25 and shared prong 35. Seat 21 can alternatively be integrated with prongs 25. Fig. 15 shows one preferred embodiment where prong 25 is integrated with seat 21 of module 20. Fig. 16 shows modules 20

Serial No.: 10/811,205

as shown in Fig. 15, but with gemstones 15 mounted within corresponding modules 20. Outer and/or inner prongs 25, as shown in Figs. 15 and 16, can be eliminated to provide a free outer edge [[16]] 18, as discussed in other embodiments of this invention. Seat 21 can also be an individual component secured to prongs 25 in any suitable manner known to those skilled in the art of jewelry design and manufacture.